

HOUSE BILL 2819
By Bragg

AN ACT to enact the Block Grant Review Act of 1996 and to amend those sections of the Tennessee Code Annotated which set forth block grant requirements or implementation procedures.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Block Grant Review Act of 1996".

SECTION 2. The purpose of this act is to require state agencies to act with deliberate planning and with maximum feasible input of concerned citizens, religious congregations, nonprofit agencies and service providers and their clients/customers and board members and local government officials, in implementing reorganizations and new priority decisions related to receipt of federal block grants or other state decisions related to the devolution of policy and funding decisions from the federal government to the state of Tennessee.

SECTION 3. To the greatest extent practicable and permitted by law, each state agency shall make block grant and federal devolution decisions based on the following principles:

(a) Minimizing harmful impacts on current and potential recipients of assistance, local governments, nonprofit agencies and the state economy;

(b) Ensuring formal and informal participation of concerned citizens, religious organizations, nonprofit agencies and service providers and their clients/customers and board members and local government officials in proposed reorganizations and new priority decisions, so that their experience may be used creatively by state decision makers; and

(c) Providing the above-referenced groups and categories of citizens with full and prompt access to information on new policy and funding and program organization related to block grants and federal devolution of authority.

SECTION 4. Each state agency responsible for making or recommending decisions on block grants and related topics shall issue a written report by February 1st each year to the finance, ways and means committee of the senate; the finance, ways and means committee of the house of representatives; the general welfare, health and human resources committee of the senate; the health and human resources committee of the house of representatives; the select committee on children and youth; the legislative study committee on block grants; and the governor. This report shall detail block grant and federal devolution decisions made or recommended by the agency and how those decisions made or recommended implement or fail to implement the principles outlined in Section 3 above.

SECTION 5. The head of each state agency shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with this act with the financial costs of compliance being assumed by each state agency.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 1996, the public welfare requiring it.

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